

M I D D L E E A S T A N D S O U T H A S I A R E V I E W

8 NOVEMBER 1982

Jordan

Husayn Interview -- In a BBC interview broadcast by Amman television, King Husayn revealed that he and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat have discussed recognizing Israel. Husayn said he hopes the PLO will "act in a manner that will help the Palestinian cause in the best possible way in the near future." Israel "obviously exists and it has a right to exist," the king asserted, adding that he thinks this is also the Palestinians' opinion. He told the Palestinians it would be a "great help" if they issued a statement at least conditionally recognizing Israel's right to exist. However, the king reiterated that Jordan will not move on the Palestinian issue without a clear mandate from the Palestinians themselves and from the rest of the Arab world. Husayn declared that he has a "strong conviction" that President Ronald Reagan is "serious and determined to see progress made" in the Middle East. He stated that he is anxious to know more about the U.S. administration's plans and added that "a dialogue is needed to clarify many points."

PLO Comments -- The Palestine Central Council which will meet in 2 weeks in Damascus will discuss the possibility of amending some articles of the Palestinian National Charter, particularly those concerning the recognition of Israel, Radio Monte Carlo reported on 5 November. The radio noted that PLO recognition of Israel must be preceded by an amendment of the Palestinian National Charter, either "in letter or spirit." However, PLO spokesman Mahmud al-Labadi said that "recognition of Israel is premature," according to an interview with the Riyadh paper AL-JAZIRAH published on 1 November. He added that Palestinians are against Zionism and expansion, but not against coexisting with Jews in Palestine.

Israeli Comments -- A "senior Israeli official" chided King Husayn for advising the PLO to recognize Israel when he himself does not do so, Jerusalem radio reported. The official called on Husayn to "set an example" and said that Husayn's recognition would be most welcome.

However, Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres described King Husayn's "recognition" of Israel as a "positive development," Jerusalem television reported on 6 November. Peres said that there are currently no channels of communication between the Labor Party and the Jordanian monarch and stressed that the Nabulus delegation which recently visited Amman had not advised the Labor Party of its plans to visit Jordan, the television added. In an interview with the Tel Aviv daily YEDI'OT AHARONOT published on 5 November, Peres declared that he would not meet with PLO leader 'Arafat but "would have preferred" to meet with King Husayn because the Labor Party can reach an agreement with him that will not necessitate establishing a Palestinian state.

Israel

West Bank Settlements -- Deputy Agricultural Minister and member of the Ministerial Committee on Settlements Mikha'el Deqel stated that Israel would have about 20 new or expanded settlements in the coming year, including the settlements mentioned previously by Housing Minister and Deputy Prime Minister David Levi, Jerusalem radio reported on 5 November. Deqel told THE JERUSALEM POST that, pending Knesset approval, the treasury has approved 500 million shekels for the settlement budget. However, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Ministerial Committee on Settlements Simha Ehrlich claimed that although the government has a "consistent policy" on settlements, "no new decisions" have been made because there is "no budget available" to establish even those settlements which have already been approved, the Tel Aviv daily MA'ARIV revealed. The plan to establish 20 settlements next year is "more wishful thinking than an actual plan," the paper noted.

The Defense Ministry plans to turn four military outposts in "Judaean and Samaria" into civilian settlements without the consent of the Ministerial Committee on Settlement Affairs, Jerusalem television reported. The outposts are in addition to the recently announced plans for five or six settlements in "Judaean and Samaria," the television pointed out.

Prime Minister Menachem Begin told the 7 November Cabinet session that he instructed the Israeli envoy in Washington to protest the U.S. administration's statements against establishing settlements in "Judaean and Samaria," Jerusalem radio reported. Begin noted that the Cabinet's policy on settlements is clear and that Israel will continue to establish settlements in the territories. A source close to the prime minister told the Tel Aviv daily DAVAR that Begin thinks President Reagan's plan is "Russian roulette with live ammunition." According to Jerusalem radio, Minister Without Portfolio Mordechai Ben-Porat suggested that reports concerning settlement affairs be censored; Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir replied that settlement activity cannot be covered up, but added that there is no need to make prior announcements on future settlement plans.

Egyptian Foreign Ministry termed Israel's decision to build settlements on the West Bank a new act "to destroy the peace process" and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali said it was a "new blow" to President Reagan's peace initiative, MENA reported. The minister expressed the hope that the United States will immediately adopt appropriate action to halt this "subversive" activity, MENA added. An AL-AHRAM article cited by MENA described the settlement issue as "a U.S. problem."

Security Incidents -- Three people were injured when a bomb was hurled at the central synagogue in Herzliya, IDF radio reported on 8 November. A Gaza resident was killed the previous day after a grenade was thrown at an IDF vehicle but a soldier succeeded in throwing it back out, according to the radio.

Further Beirut Massacre Testimony -- Brig Gen 'Amos Yaron testified to the commission of inquiry into the Beirut massacres that Chief of Staff Refa'el Eytan told Phalangist commanders on the afternoon of 17 September that they had done a "nice job" and issued an order for them to continue their operations in the Shatila and Sabra camps until the following morning, Jerusalem radio reported.

Lebanon

Security Situation -- Israeli and Syrian artillery exchanged fire in the Al-Biq'a Valley on 6 November, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. The Ash-Shuf mountain area was calm on 5-6 November but renewed sectarian clashes and kidnappings occurred on 7 November, according to Beirut radio reports. Meanwhile, Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt announced in an interview with AFP that he is prepared to cooperate with President Amin al-Jumayyil and is ready to disarm his Druze militia "in the framework of a general disarmament." Junblatt confirmed that the leftist National Movement no longer exists.

Arab Relations -- President al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan will visit Saudi Arabia on 14 November for talks on the withdrawal of foreign forces and on the reconstruction of Lebanon, Beirut radio reported. Lebanon will not return its ambassador to Libya until the Libyans officially apologize for Col Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi's criticism of President al-Jumayyil, the radio also noted.

Talks With Israel -- The talks between Israel and Lebanon are being delayed because the two sides disagree on the agenda, the composition of the delegations and the venue for the talks, Jerusalem radio reported. Israeli officials expressed surprise at the stand adopted by U.S. Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs Morris Draper, who arrived in Tel Aviv on 6 November and told the Israelis not to pressure President al-Jumayyil, the radio said.

Iran-Iraq War

Military Activities -- Iran launched the "third phase" of the current operation on the southwestern fronts late on 6 November, liberating territory, placing several supply-communication axes within firing range of the Iranian forces, and entering 10 km into Iraqi territory, military communiques broadcast by Tehran radio reported. An Iraqi military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio reported that Iranian forces entered 1-5 km into Iraqi territory along a narrow front during a fierce battle. In earlier clashes on 6 November Iranian forces retreated from the border area opposite the Maysan Governorate, leaving 982 dead, a military communique broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio claimed. The communique added that the Iraqi Air Force continued concentrated attacks both in the border area and "deep inside" Iranian territory in the southern and central sectors of the battlefield, inflicting "massive" losses.

Operation Statistics -- Since 1 November, 6,000 Iraqis have been killed or wounded and 3,400 have been captured, a military communique broadcast by Tehran radio claimed. IRNA reported that 30 villages in southwestern Iran have been liberated.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Comments -- Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani told journalists at a news conference in Tehran that the war will continue until Iranian objectives are met, Tehran radio reported. The speaker stressed that Iran is prepared to advance to Baghdad if the conditions are not met.

GCC Defense

A mutual Gulf defense plan will be submitted to the forthcoming GCC summit in Manama, Saudi Defense and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz announced in a press statement reported by SPA.



DAILY REPORT

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POLICE INJURED IN KASHMIR DEMONSTRATIONS 7 NOV

BK081256 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 7 Nov 82

[Text] The bundh [strike] call in Jammu is reported to have evoked partial response today. The bundh call was given by the opposition parties, except the Congress-I, in protest against the review of central laws implemented in the state after 1953 and alleged discrimination against Jammu and Ladakh region and the Resettlement Act. Transport services and work in courts were affected. Police had to use tear gas following heavy stone pelting in the Chowk area. According to official sources 10 policemen were injured. Over 30 persons have been arrested for disrupting traffic.

SECURITY STEPPED UP FOR MINISTERS IN PUNJAB

BK051405 Hong Kong AFP in English 1349 GMT 5 Nov 82

[By Dilip Ganguly]

[Excerpt] Amritsar, India, Nov 6 [date as received] (AFP) -- The Punjab government today stepped up security for all ministers and state installations following intelligence reports of possible attacks by Sikh militants pursuing a holy war for autonomy for the Punjab, officials here said.

Ministers in the Congress Party-led state government saw their guards doubled last night after Sikh leaders announced they would intensify their agitation with the failure of a negotiated settlement of their demands with the federal government. Ministers have been told to avoid going out of the state capital, Chandigarh, and always to take along sten gun-carrying security guards.

HOME MINISTER SPEAKS ON PUNJAB SITUATION

BK051636 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Nov 82

[Text] The home minister said in the Rajya Sabha today that the Akali Dal's move to extend their agitation to the venue of the ASIAD has no justification and will create more complications.

Replying to a call attention motion sponsored by Khushwant Singh (nominated) and others, Sethi appealed to the Akalis not to escalate the agitation. He hoped that they would see reason and would not play into the hands of extremists. If violence creeps into the agitation, the government will have to deal with it accordingly. Sethi said the government has been trying to resolve the Punjab situation with the utmost sincerity. The prime minister had gone much out of her way in accommodating some of their demands despite opposition from some section of the people. So far as religious demands are concerned, almost all of them are acceptable to the government. Only certain details have to be worked out.

Referring to the suggestion by some members that the prime minister should meet the Akali leaders, Sethi said she had never expressed herself against such meetings. But first a proper and congenial atmosphere has to be created. Besides, certain things have to be sorted out at the junior level.

Replying to questions, Sethi said that under a 1970 award Chandigarh was to be transferred to Punjab and Fazilka's (Abohar) to Haryana. So far as the government is concerned, that position still stands. Regarding center-state relations, he said this is a question which is not limited to any one state. A consensus has to be arrived at.

A member wanted to know the government's reaction to the Anantpur Saheb Resolution. The home minister made it clear that any resolution or demand that goes against the integrity of the country cannot be accepted.

During the discussion, several members demanded an assurance from the government that the Anantpur Saheb Resolution as now drafted will not form the basis for any settlement with the Akalis. Another demand was that places of worship should not give sanctuary to antisocial elements. Members paid tribute to the historic role played by the Sikhs, particularly in defending the country, and said some mischievous and motivated elements have misguided the majority of the Akalis. It was stated that extremists should be dealt with firmly. One member regretted that the religious sentiments of Sikhs were being exploited by one section for political gain. Another member urged the government not to stand on prestige for finding a solution to the Akali demands.

AKALI DAL: NO INTENTION OF DISRUPTING GAMES

BK051420 Hong Kong AFP in English 1402 GMT 5 Nov 82

[Text] Amritsar, (India) Nov 5 (AFP) -- The Sikh extremist party, Akali Dal, has no intention of disrupting the Asian Games, the party's leader Sant (priest) Harchand Singh Longowal said here today. He said the decision he announced yesterday in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar was to send "jathas" (volunteers) to court arrest in Delhi during the Asian Games to focus international attention on Sikh demands for autonomy for the Punjab.

The government of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi has taken an extremely firm line following the declaration of a holy war yesterday. Witnesses in Amritsar, quoted in the press, had said Sant Longowal declared he would turn the Asian Games into a battleground. Crack frontier guards from the Tibetan border are to protect the Asian Games installations in New Delhi against Sikh fanatics if they march to the capital on November 19, the HINDUSTAN TIMES daily said today. Observers said the firmness of the central government seemed to be paying off.

Referring to the pro-Khalistan (independent Punjab) slogans raised at a congregation where the new stir programme was announced yesterday, the Akali chief said it did not reflect the majority opinion of the Akali Dal leadership.

The sant told the press that if the prime minister's emissary, Swaran Singh, needed any clarifications he would be welcomed to Amritsar but the five-member Akali panel would not visit Delhi any more.

When his attention was drawn to the federal interior minister, P.C. Sethi's statement in parliament earlier today, Mr. Longowal replied: "If we are members of one family, it would have been better for Mrs. Gandhi, as its head, to come to us and enquire about our grievances. It would have been a good precedent," he said. Referring to the state government's instruction that the Akali volunteers would be jailed when they court arrest as part of their stir, the sant said "it is a direct attack on our religion by Darbara Singh", the chief minister of the state. "More the repression, more intensified the agitation," he warned.

Meanwhile, in Delhi, the interior minister told the upper house that Mrs. Gandhi is prepared to talk to the Akali leaders to find a solution to their demands after they are sorted out at her emissary's level. Mr. Sethi said the government had not stated that it would deal with the proposed stir sternly. But "if there is violence then the government is bound to deal sternly with it." Mr. Sethi said the government cannot consider "anything which goes against the unity and integrity of the country" and he expressed the hope that the Akali leaders would see the reason.

According to PTI news agency reports from Chandigarh, State Chief Minister Darbara Singh said today that he would continue to tour the state despite the Akalis threat to "gherao" (physical confinement) him. "I am a democratically elected representative of the people and as such, it is my duty to go to them and hear them. I will not fail in my duty," he said. One of the three-point programmes of the Akalis announced yesterday in Amritsar to intensify their agitation, following breakdown of talks with the prime minister's emissary, was to "gherao" the chief minister whenever he toured the state.

HASHEMI-RAFSANJANI ON CONDITIONS TO END WAR

LD071932 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 CMT 7 Nov 82

[Text] Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Majlis and the imam's representative at the Supreme Defense Council, this afternoon took part in a press, radio and television conference given for domestic and foreign correspondents.

The Central News Unit reports that the speaker of the Islamic Majlis, commenting on the conditions set to end the imposed war, said: Our conditions were clarified from the beginning: the unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces -- which has not been enacted -- and payment of reparations and punishment of the aggressor. Punishment of the aggressor has been interpreted in many ways, including the downfall of the Ba'th Party. It has been said that with the downfall of Iraq's Ba'th Party and its replacement with an Islamic government, Iran would not ask for reparations. This statement was not made by the Supreme Defense Council, but no one yet has opposed it either.

Regarding the extent, methods, effects and victories achieved by the recent offensive, Hashemi-Rafsanjani commented: Several days ago, we launched an offensive from a strategic position, and the latest report handed to me indicates that we have advanced inside Iraqi territory by 10 km and have captured the 'Amarah asphalted road. As we have repeated several times, if they do not meet our conditions, these operations will continue for as long as we deem necessary.

Questioned on the Iraqi minister of foreign affairs having said that the war between Iraq and Iran is finished and that there are no longer any extensive confrontations, only small-scale encounters, he replied: The Iraqis lied from the beginning and this is another lie. The war will continue until our objectives are fulfilled.

The speaker of the Islamic Majlis, commenting on the new operational region of the combatants of Islam, said: These operations are a continuation of the Moharram operations and [words indistinct].

Questioned on the method of payment for reparations by Iraq, he responded: We want Iraq's Ba'th Party to pay reparation. We would not object to other countries helping Iraq with this payment.

The imam's representative at the Supreme Defense Council, commenting on the possibility that in light of the recent victories of the combatants of Islam there might be alterations made in Iraq's Ba'th Party by America and that Saddam might be eliminated from the Ba'th Party, said: Saddam personally is not important to us. The Ba'th Party is responsible for these crimes. Saddam should be punished. We would not be satisfied with cosmetic changes.

Commenting on the extent of the recent operations launched by the combatants of Islam, he said: We have not [word indistinct] ourselves at any point and until our conditions are met, we will continue to advance as far as we deem necessary. Our combatants are capable of advancing to Baghdad.

The speaker of the Islamic Majlis then stressed the conditions set by the Islamic Republic of Iran to end the war. He said: We do not want to use the word peace until the just rights of the Muslim nation of Iran are restored. Until then, no peace is possible.

At this point a correspondent asked: If Iran's conditions are not met, are the Iranian forces prepared to advance to Baghdad itself? Hashemi-Rafsanjani replied: Yes, we have announced this fact before; nothing can restrain us.

The imam's representative at the Supreme Defense Council referred to the threat made by the countries of the region with regard to imposing an economic and political embargo on the Islamic Republic of Iran in case of a new offensive. He said: They have done what they could. Their money, their propaganda machinery, their political votes [as heard], their ports and even their forces are and have been at the disposal of the Iraqi regime. We advise them to go no further, so that our nation can forgive them for what they have done.

In the light of the new progress made by the forces of Islam and foreseeing new conspiracies by America, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: America is our most headstrong enemy and, up to now, in connection with the war and during the past 3 years, America has done all in its power. [as heard] We predict that America will not (?dare) to interfere directly. It also does not have that much force available for indirect interference. We don't fear [words indistinct].

Commenting on rumors concerning arms sales from the Zionist regime, he said: It claims we have bought arms worth \$28 million from it. I can tell you now that during the Moharram operations, our combatants have seized weapons worth more than \$1 billion as booty. The spoils of past operations are worth even more. When we have such huge resources provided by the Iraqis themselves, we would not blemish our reputation by buying arms costing \$28 million from the Zionist regime.

On the Islamic Republic's future relations with America and Europe, he said: For more than 3 years, America has done all it could against us. Therefore, we cannot easily forget the hostility and cruelty it has displayed toward our nation, and our nation is a determined enemy of America. He added: With regard to European countries, we already have relations with them, but we will not allow colonialist relations to be established between us. France, among the European countries, is the more hostile toward us and has assisted Iraq quite a lot. France also has helped the terrorists [as heard] and has (?frozen) our assets. At present more than [words indistinct] is withheld against the verdict of their own court. I think there might be a [word indistinct] point in our close relations with France. He added: Our relations are not clouded with other European countries, and if they act properly we are prepared. [as heard]

KHAMENE'I WARNS AGAINST SUPERPOWER INTERFERENCE

GF080724 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 8 Nov 82

[Report on correspondent's interview with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i broadcast by Voice and Vision Television -- date, place not given]

[Text] President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i answered people's questions regarding the nation's current problems including housing, offices, rising prices, distribution of goods, the imposed war, minigroups and U.S. conspiracies in the region.

In his interview, the president said: The United States' loudspeakers directly and indirectly threaten that the superpowers will join the war. We see this as a pretext for foisting an imposed peace on us. In this way, they are trying to make us ignore the sovereign rights of the Iranian nation concerning Iraq and the Ba'thist regime and that we should accept a humiliating and superficial peace. However, we consider the superpowers intelligent enough not to interfere in the war. They did so indirectly and they are doing it now and they will continue to do so in the future.

However, if they ever intervene directly in the Persian Gulf, Oman Sea and Middle East regions, their intervention will result in the destruction of their own interests in the region. We consider it improbable that the superpowers will ever commit such an (?indiscreet) act.

In his television message, Seyyed 'Ali Khamen'i continued: We have declared time and again, and we repeat, that an imposed peace is as bad as an imposed war and, therefore, unacceptable. Only that peace based on the truth and just conditions is (?acceptable). We repeatedly have announced those conditions and we are prepared to accept a just peace. Without these conditions, it is not possible for us to make peace. One of those conditions, as we have reiterated, is the retribution of the aggressive regime of Iraq headed by the 'Aflaqite Saddam.

A full version of the president's televised message will be presented in the later newscasts.

MINISTRY DELEGATION LEAVES ON MIDEAST TOUR

LD061746 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Nov 82

[Excerpt] The political under secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, heading a delegation of ministry officials, left Tehran this afternoon for Libya, Syria, Algeria, South Yemen and the UAE to elaborate on the positions held by the Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to developments in the region and international affairs.

PRIME MINISTER INTRODUCES THREE NEW MINISTERS

LD071126 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Nov 82

[Excerpt] The Central News Unit reports that, during this morning's Majlis open session chaired by Hashemi-Rafsanjani, a letter by Prime Minister Musavi to the Majlis speaker, introducing three new ministers was read:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Honorable Brother Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Majlis: In accordance with Article 33 of the Constitution, I hereby introduce Seyyed Mohammad Khatami, Javad (Voz'i) and Mohsen Rafiqdust as the ministers of Islamic guidance, state and head of the state welfare organization, and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps respectively, in order to receive a voice of confidence from the honorable deputies.

[Signed] Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran

GHARAZI COMMENTS ON LOSS OF ABADAN REFINERY

LD080940 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0400 GMT 8 Nov 82

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that our country's petroleum minister gave an interview to foreign correspondents who have come to Iran to inspect the situation of the battlefronts and behind the frontlines of the imposed war.

He elaborated on the state of Iran's oil industry. He said: As the official in charge of the country's oil, I announce that despite losing the Abadan refinery, which has a capacity of 600,000 barrels, we have succeeded in increasing the level of production with regard to the oil products needed by our country. In the past month, gas-oil rationing ended and kerosene rationing, God willing, will end soon. Gas rations have increased by 50 percent and gradually will increase to even higher rates.

Referring to Iran's oil exports, Gharazi said: Despite the conspiracies of America's lackeys in the Middle East who are trying to halt Iran's oil sales, we have our quota in the world oil market. Of course, we have put Iran's quota within OPEC at 3 million barrels a day. Gharazi then said: The Islamic Republic of Iran will never sell oil to the four countries of America, Israel, South Africa and the Philippines.

In reply to a question about the pressure exerted to reduce the official OPEC oil price, he said: Iran is trying to help OPEC remain strong and independent from U.S. policies. Gharazi emphasized: Those who have tried to reduce the oil price suffered losses last year and threatened the balance of world economy. I believe the United States and Saudi Arabia suffered more losses than others. The Iranian petroleum minister then said the reason for stopping Iran's gas exports to the USSR was failure to agree on the price of gas.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF ISSUES COMMUNIQUE

Communique No 1,107

LD051836 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Nov 82

[Communique No 1,107 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Yesterday, all along the western fronts of the country, an exchange of artillery and heavy weapons fire continued. On each of these fronts, the combatants of Islam returned the fire of the Saddamists.

By opening fire on enemy positions, the combatants of Islam silenced their artillery and heavy weapons fire and inflicted considerable damages and casualties on the enemy.

According to the latest reports received, about 200 Iraqi military personnel have been either killed or wounded on Qasr-e Shirin and Sumar. Also, one of the enemy's ammunition depots was set on fire.

On 31 October, the brave tribal warriors in the Piranshahr region carried out a series of operations outside the borders. Their strike attacks succeeded in killing 30 Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries; 30 heavy and light weapons and two wireless sets were seized from the Iraqi forces.

In an exchange of fire on the Marivan front, artillery fire by the powerful combatants of Islam on enemy positions in Tutman and Panjwin region succeeded in setting on fire and destroying several collective entrenchments belonging to the Saddamist forces and more than 15 Iraqi soldiers were killed. In these operations, the combatants of Islam succeeded in silencing the artillery fire of the Saddamist mercenaries.

At 1205 hours today, the lofty personnel of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran downed one of the aggressive planes of the Iraqi Armed Forces in the Persian Gulf region.

The victorious combatants of Islam stationed on the Moharram operational fronts established and consolidated their defensive positions. They opened intensive fire on the Iraqi positions and units, inflicting effective damages and casualties on the enemy and foiling all efforts and futile activities of the Saddamist forces in launching repeated counteroffensives. Our victorious combatants also opened heavy and continuous fire on enemy positions, setting fire to fuel tanks belonging to the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries in this region and inflicting considerable damages on them.

On the Khorramshahr and Abadan fronts, about 13 Saddamists were killed or wounded due to heroes of the navy firing on enemy positions on the other side of the Arvand Rud. Two enemy fuel tanks situated on the Faw-Basrah axis also were set on fire and a heavy weapons emplacement of the Iraqi forces was completely destroyed. On these fronts, the heroes of the gendarmerie returned the enemy's fire and inflicted damages and casualties.

The towns of Abadan and Khorramshahr yesterday came under artillery and heavy weapons fire by the Iraqi mercenary forces. Several houses and shops were destroyed in Abadan.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,108

LD061800 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Nov 82

[Communique No 1,108 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Following the extensive Moharram operations and the valuable successes achieved after the liberation of the occupied lands in the southwestern region of the Islamic homeland, our victorious forces are now continuing their ground activities. These activities include operations of construction, artillery, armored and infantry units aimed at strengthening and consolidating defense positions. By opening fire on enemy positions, our artillery units not only stop the movements of the Iraqi units but they also do not give the Ba'thist mercenaries any opportunity to make the slightest move.

In the western operational areas, the brave combatants of Islam -- like their other victorious and honorable brothers -- are endeavoring to destroy the enemy with firm determination.

On the various fronts of the Marivan and Paveh areas, exchanges of artillery fire continued yesterday with our heroic forces enjoying complete fire superiority. By opening fire on the positions of the Saddamist mercenaries, our strong combatants based in these two areas inflicted losses and casualties on the enemy.

On the other fronts of the western operational region, our brothers carried out their activities by dispatching patrol and reconnaissance groups.

Three residential houses in Abadan yesterday were destroyed by enemy mortars and fire broke out in parts of the city. Three of our Abadan compatriots were wounded as a result of this attack.

In the past 24 hours, several Iraqi aircraft violated the airspace of border points in the southern and western areas of our country. However, they were forced to flee by fire from our air defense units.

At 1153 today, one enemy aircraft was downed by fire from ground-to-air defenses in the Ilam area.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,111

LD071754 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Nov 82

[Communique No 1,111 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. We thank you, dear God, for making the combatants who follow your path so victorious and successful on the fronts of the battle between good and bad. Your blessings be upon them.

Dear compatriots, the results of the efforts and self-sacrifices of the forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran are brought to your attention. At 1106, 1145 and 1310 today, three aggressive planes belonging to the Iraqi Armed Forces were downed in the Moharram operational region by fire from fighters and antiaircraft defense units of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The pilot of one of the downed Iraqi planes, Capt Mohammad Raji, was captured by the capable hands of our combatants and transferred to a location behind the frontline. This brings the total number of Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries' planes downed in the victorious Moharram operation to 12.

On most of the western fronts yesterday, the exchange of artillery and heavy weapons fire continued sporadically. On each of these fronts, the combatants of Islam defended their positions and defused a considerable number of different kinds of mines planted by the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries in the operational region of Muslim ibn 'Aqil. At the same time, they opened artillery and heavy weapons fire on enemy positions. Our forces succeeded in inflicting damages and casualties on Iraqi forces on these fronts.

Due to the artillery fire of the ground forces, an ammunition depot of the Iraqi forces was set on fire on the Marivan front. Enemy artillery fire was silenced on this front by a pounding of their artillery positions.

On the southern fronts, the exchange of fire between the victorious forces of Islam and the weakening enemy is continuing. On the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts, gendarmerie warriors returned the enemy fire by opening fire on Saddamists' positions on the other side of the Arvand Rud, inflicting casualties and damages on the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries. Several collective and individual entrenchments with their corresponding crews were destroyed on these fronts.

A number of planes belonging to the Iraqi Armed Forces which had intended to violate the airspace of several of our southern and western towns yesterday were forced to flee by the selfless personnel of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran who opened fire using tactical measures.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

COMMUNIQUE ON MOHARRAM OPERATION'S THIRD PHASE

Communique No 7

LD070852 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0807 GMT 7 Nov 82

[Communique No 7 of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings to you, the God-seeking combatants and sincere followers of the lord of the martyrs, Husayn ibn 'Ali, may peace be upon him. Greetings to you, to those who cry God is great and carry arms to you, the praying men of the night and the lions of the day. Greetings to you, the announcers of the liberation of the oppressed and to you, the enthusiastic soldiers of the lord of the era; may God hasten his noble advent.

Martyr-nurturing and revolutionary nation, the Iranian Muslim umma', your brave and zealous sons, relying on the unlimited power of God on the fronts of the fight between truth and falsehood are attacking the abject enemy and by crushing the forces of the blasphemous and Ba'thist-Zionist regime governing Iraq are advancing toward the specified targets.

The brave soldiers of the army of Islam in the third phase of the Moharram operations codenamed O Zaynab at 2315 last night on one of the Moharram operational axes attacked the criminal enemy, killed and wounded a large number of the enemy forces and took hundreds of them prisoner. So far, more than 620 of them have been transferred behind the front-lines and the evacuation of the rest of the POW's from the front is still going on.

In these operations, three enemy brigades were completely besieged by the powerful combatants of Islam. So far, thanks to the bravery and heroism of our forces the enemy's 24th Mechanized Brigade has been completely destroyed and its personnel have been killed, wounded or taken prisoner. Five other enemy brigades also have suffered heavy blows. The extent of the losses and casualties inflicted on them will be announced later.

The proud and epic-making combatants of the army of Islam in this phase of the Moharram operations so far have managed to destroy dozens of the defeated enemy's tanks and personnel carriers and more than 45 tanks and personnel carriers also have been seized intact by our victorious combatants.

Full reports on these victorious operations later will be brought to the attention of the martyr-nurturing and revolutionary umma', who are the great supporters of their epic-making sons through their prayers and worship.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

Communique No 8

LD071146 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Nov 82

[Communique No 8 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Brave Islamic umma', the honorable and martyr-nurturing Iranian nation, following the start of the victorious Moharram operations codenamed O Zaynab, peace be upon her, under the command of the Central 'Karbala Headquarters -- joint operations headquarters of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in the southwest of the country -- aimed at foiling aggression on the Islamic homeland and at defending the Islamic revolution, heavy blows, losses and casualties have been inflicted upon the American Saddamists.

At 2315 last night, the third phase of the Moharram operations was started by the brave soldiers of the Islamic umma' and other victories were achieved by the Islamic umma', which pushed back the aggressive enemy.

In these fully victorious operations, a lightning attack on the abject enemy, the proud combatants of the army of Islam managed to liberate kilometers of specified regions in the Moharram operational zone and to capture them completely. As a result, they gained dominance over several other supply-communication axes of the aggressive army of the Zionist Iraqi regime and brought them within the range of their crushing fire.

In this phase of the victorious operations, the heroic soldiers of the army of Islam have so far completely destroyed the 24th Mechanized and 60th Armored Brigades of the aggressive army of the criminal Saddam, inflicted major losses and heavy casualties on several other brigades and have killed or wounded a large number of blasphemous and hireling mercenaries of the world arrogance.

In this phase of the Moharram operations, the combatants defending the country of God's messenger with divine help have taken a large number of enemy forces prisoner; so far, 1,100 American Saddamists have been transferred behind the front. The total evacuated enemy POW's from the front during the Moharram operations has, therefore, reached over 3,000.

In the course of these victorious operations, since last night, more than 75 tanks and personnel carriers and 101 vehicles of the abject enemy have been destroyed; 62 tanks and personnel carriers and 97 vehicles of the Iraqi Zionist army have been seized intact as booty.

Two more aircraft of the Iraqi Ba'thist aggressors this morning were hit and downed by the fast-flying eagles of the air force of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the vigilant air defense of the Moharram operational zone. Therefore, the number of downed enemy aircraft in the Moharram operation zones has reached 11.

[Signed] The Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 9

LD071736 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Nov 82

[Communique No 9 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Text] O able and valiant umma' of Islam, O great nation of Iran: The able combatants of Islam, continuing the third phase of the Moharram operations have penetrated 10 km into Iraqi territory and succeeded in destroying the blasphemous army's 24th Mechanized and 60th Armored Brigades as well as the remnants of the Iraqi 505th, 423d and 606th Infantry Brigades, which had been crushed in the course of two previous victorious Moharram operations, and which had since been reinforced.

Since last night, more than 1,500 Iraqi POW's have been transferred behind the fronts, thus bringing the total number of Iraqi POW's captured during the victorious Moharram operation, to 3,400.

In the course of victorious operations launched last night, more than 170 enemy tanks and personnel carriers have been destroyed and over 94 modern tanks and personnel carriers have been taken as spoils of war. More than 200 Iraqi vehicles also have been destroyed and 150 have been taken as the spoils of war. Twenty-six 106-mm heavy weapons are among equipment captured by our able combatants. Enemy casualties -- dead and injured -- since last night's operation exceed 2,000. Therefore, total Saddam army casualties, dead and injured, during the Moharram operation has reached 6,000. Several of the Saddam army's important ammunition dumps have been destroyed during the third phase of the Moharram operations.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

COUNTEROFFENSIVE 'THWARTED' IN WESTERN REGION

LD061128 Tehran IRNA in English 0916 GMT 6 Nov 82

[Text] Bakhtaran, Nov 5, IRNA -- An Iraqi counter-offensive was thwarted Thursday in two western regions of heights No. 402 and Salman Koshteh, in the Muslim ibn 'Aqil theatre (started on Oct 1st). [sentence as received]

The Iraqi aggressors retreated while sustaining heavy casualties and losses. Two Iraqi soldiers who were wounded during the counter-offensive were transferred behind the fronts by Islamic defenders and treated.

Meanwhile, a patrol team of the Islamic defenders killed several enemy soldiers in their positions.

IRNA DETAILS SUCCESSES IN RECENT OPERATIONS

LD061314 Tehran IRNA in English 0941 GMT 6 Nov 82

[Text] Karbala' Headquarters, Nov 6, IRNA -- The success of the Moharram operation, which led to the liberation of Hamrain strategic border heights, enjoys unique characteristics.

The operation, which started at night on Nov 1, 1982, embodied important axis in southwestern area of 'Eyn-e Khosh.

Iraqi forces had organized their 10th Armoured Division of the 4th Army which had received a severe blow in Dezful during Fath al-Mobin operation, withdrawing to the southwestern 'Eyn-e Khosh. The division had nine armoured infantry brigades.

The operation was pre-arranged but on Monday night, Nov 1, due to heavy rainfalls which caused floods in some [words indistinct] of the Iranian forces, the Iraqis thought that the offensive would be postponed thus went to rest after 10 days of unrest and anxiety.

In the first hours of the operation, Islamic combatants achieved their targets, striking fatal blow on the Iraqi enemy.

To mention the degree of casualties and damages inflicted on the Iraqi troops, some instances should be noted. The 606th and 423rd Infantry Divisions were completely battered and the 505th Infantry and 60th and 42nd Armoured Divisions lost 30 to 60 percent of their military capability, and commander of the division was killed. The second battalion of the 14th Mechanized Brigade was totally smashed while the Second Jeish al-Shabi Brigade sustained damages.

Military informed sources cautiously estimate the number of Iraqis killed or wounded during the operation around 3,000 and the number of POW's transferred behind the fronts since last Thursday afternoon to 1,500.

The damage the Iraqi forces suffered includes destruction of over 100 tanks and personnel carriers, 120 vehicles, 12 pieces of 106-mm weapons and a number of katyushas. The Islamic combatants also seized from the enemy 90 vehicles, 50 tanks and a great number of heavy and light [words indistinct] as well as anti-aircraft artillery.

Operation Moharram was also a potential threat against Iraqi border cities, oil installations and economic establishments also endangering a number of strategic military highways which disconnected southern and northern Iraqi warfronts.

During this operation some 30 villages near 'Eyn-e Khosh, Musian and Dehloran, in southwestern Iran, were liberated or freed from the enemy's artillery fire, all of which is an absolute defeat for Iraq and a great victory for the Islamic Republic.

At present Iranian forces have liberated over 550 sq. kms of their territory while Saddam Husayn and his generals are desperately seeking the assistance of their allies in Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Egypt and Sudan.